

SHOP EARLY

# THE WASHINGTON HERALD

SHOP EARLY

WASHINGTON, D. C., SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17, 1916.

## Christmas Edition



### Capital Welcomes Christmas With Peace and Prosperity

FATHER TIME, weighted down with one additional year, is hastening earthward to perform his last big official act for 1916. He will arrive eight days hence, and in the still night will usher into a sleeping world, Christmas Day.

For centuries Father Time has been performing this same task and sometimes his heart has been saddened by the events he found in his earthly domain and again he has rejoiced with the multitudes, in observing the anniversary of the birth of the Christ Child in far-off Bethlehem. This year his heart will be heavy when he gazes upon the bloody battlefields of Europe, where mankind is bending all energies to the destruction of human life, and he will have to turn his eyes toward the United States, to blot out the picture of death and desolation.

Father Time will find America waiting with outstretched arms and smiling countenance for the day of days; he will find peace and prosperity, happiness and rejoicing, as in no other spot on the face of the earth, for never in its history has the United States been so well prepared to enter into the real spirit of Christmas.

And in no city in the nation will Christmas be received with more good cheer than in Washington. Unscorched by the hot breath of war, with a record of prosperity behind and the prospects of even greater prosperity ahead, Washingtonians may well make big preparations to observe Christmas on a more generous scale than ever before.

The prosperity which has missed no section of the country is reflected in the National Capital in a score of ways, and now that Uncle Sam, aided and abetted by millions of citizens, has the old bugaboo "high-cost-of-living" on the run, and is loosening up his purse-strings preparatory to rewarding his faithful employees, the citizens are preparing for an unrivalled celebration.

And when some 30,000 or 40,000 persons are assured that their salaries are to be increased to a point commensurate with their living expenses, they are going to do a little anticipating, capitalize the future and fill old Kris Kingle's pack to overflowing. Then there are the dependents of these 30,000 or 40,000, who will share in the monthly pay envelope, all of whom will add their mite toward making Christmas, 1916, memorable.

While Washington's prosperity is on the upgrade, its responsibilities have in a sense increased. Besides providing Christmas cheer for the members of the families and friends at home, there are several thousand Washington boys and men on the border whose only Christmas cheer must come from home. Mothers, sisters, wives and sweethearts already are spending with royal recklessness that the soldier boys may be able to join in the observance in spirit if not in the flesh.

The coming of Christmas has been heralded for the past week by the thousands of eager shoppers who have thronged downtown streets; by the appearance of gay window decorations and in the later days, by the arrival in the markets of great stacks of Christmas trees and greens. As the days pass, the signs of Christmas multiply, and goaded by the constant reminder of "Shop Early," the belated householders are barking each other's shins and bruising ribs in the good-natured rush to see that every friend and relative is substantially remembered before the arrival of the fateful Saturday night which will put a quietus on their labors of love.

If it be more blessed to give than receive, then Washington certainly will be doubly blessed when old Father Time swings his scythe and opens the gates for the advent of Christmas Day.

